

ER 10-5570/a

21 JUL 1958

Mr. Walter Winchell
NEW YORK MIRROR
235 East 45th Street
New York 17, New York

Dear Mr. Winchell:

I appreciate your most considerate action in taking the time to send to me a galley proof of your column of 16 July 1958.

Let me know when you are next coming to Washington so that we may get together.

Sincerely,

~~SECRET~~

Allen W. Dulles
Director

STATINTL

[REDACTED] /SJGrogan/(21 July 1958):ppp

Distribution

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1 - DCI Reading

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STATINTL

P.S. Naturally I had noted this and had told our mutual friend [REDACTED] how much I had appreciated it.

ILLEGIB

Executive Registry

10-5510

NEW YORK MIRROR
DAILY AND SUNDAY

235 EAST 45TH STREET
NEW YORK 17, N. Y.
MURRAY HILL 2-1000

July 18, 1958

Dear Mr. Dulles:

Enclosed is a proof of my column of
this morning, which appeared on the streets
last night.

A mutual friend provided the facts.

good wishes,

Walter Winchell

Walter Winchell

Walter Winchell

of New York

7/18

Mr. and Mrs. United States!

As the clouds of war gather from Cairo and the Euphrates and from Suez to Yemen, it is obvious that additional heavy burdens are being placed upon the Marines. Our international responsibilities have increased by thousands of miles—while the Department of Defense has cut down the Marines by thousands of men.—From this column March 20, 1958.

The Congress is in an uproar because, they say, Central Intelligence was caught flat-footed in Iraq. This is, of course, pure bunk. The CIA warned again and again that our whole diplomatic arch in the Middle East was falling—but the business-as-usual bunch teamed up with the Pollyannas and a good time was had by all until the House of Cards collapsed. Since, by policy, Central Intelligence can neither affirm nor deny, Allen Dulles makes the ideal political scapegoat. It's as simple as fighting a man whose hands are tied behind his back. Unfortunately, this won't solve the problem abroad, though it does offer a plausible political explanation for the folks back home.

For ten years, in the 30s, this reporter attempted to warn the American people of the gathering Nazi war-clouds. For the last 15, he has tried to point out the coming Communist Cyclone, for which he has been variously called an hysterical warmonger and a member of the lunatic fringe. Unfortunately, I was far too right. All you have to do is look at the map. Not only the Middle East, but North Africa also, is a seething volcano. It not only fits together like a jigsaw puzzle; once the pieces are in place our jig is going to be up.

Asia is gone, the Middle East and Suez are breached, and North Africa is going. The Nazis knew what ancient Rome learned the hard way—who controls North Africa controls Europe. For repeatedly stating this, Allen Dulles was regarded as a Cassandra, at best, and a political nuisance, at worst. Having drunk the heady wine of phony security, the lads who wouldn't listen are now trying to blame Dulles for their hangovers. Just to get right to the bottom: London was caught far more flatfooted than Washington, which is neither here nor there. What's here is this: The world is closer to World War III than even the crisis of the Berlin Blockade or of Korea.

Again, ironically, if war is prevented it is because the Marines have landed. But thanks to the myopic eyesight along the Potomac, the Marines have been cut to such a point that Commandant Randolph Pate testified only a month ago that they were in perilous shape. If this be true, Secretary McElroy owes an apology—and a resignation—to the nation. The Congress appropriated the money for the Marines, and the Defense Department simply appropriated the money for themselves. Senator Russell has thundered against this unconstitutional procedure, but the Pentagon is a law unto itself, apparently. The real irony for Commandant Pate is that just 40 years ago today—the 5th Marines broke the Kaiser's own regiment and the Hindenburg Line.

The U.S. Marines are on more than the shores of Lebanon. They are on the conscience of every American capable of writing to the White House. Instead of four divisions and four wings, they have three skeletonized wings and three lean divisions. They may lack strength on Capitol Hill, but we can thank the 49 stars that they have it in the Mediterranean.

In this writer's considered opinion, unless the United States Marines are brought up to a minimum of 5 Divisions and 5 Wings, the Mediterranean is in for its most hectic days since Hannibal. Even as Allen Dulles warned of the hurricane, the wiseacres were cutting down our ability to do something about it. There is only one thing in American history more stupid than sending scrap iron to Japan. That is cutting the only ready force we have—the Marines—to the danger point. Unless this is remedied, even the men who made this tragic mistake won't have to answer for it—because we will have lost a war without even being able to fight it. You don't answer to the Reds: They tell you. In the meantime, all politicians will kick Allen Dulles in the shins because it doesn't cost anything. He's not running for anything and he can't answer back.

There has been a great deal of talk about a summit conference. The reason is that a large number of people believe it could bring peace. But an analysis of the facts indicates the exact opposite. The Geneva Conference was in session when the Reds barged into the Near East. The Berlin Blockade was used as a cover for the attack on Korea. The Peace Conference on Korea was used as a cover for the seizure of Indo-China. Every Conference to date has been a front for a new basic attack. Suppose the Conference reached an agreement. By actual count, Moscow has broken seventy-two to date. This means it is 72 to 1 that they would break the next one. That's a long shot to take when the country's life is at stake.

It is an axiom that words repeated enough lose their meaning. But facts do not. The 20th Century is punch-drunk on war headlines—but that doesn't lessen the enemy's wallop. There was a time when the placing of all armed forces on Alert No. 1 would have aroused the country to its danger. But even the notice that the Marines have landed, that the Atlantic Battle Force is rushing reinforcements to the 6th American Fleet and that heavy units of Her Majesty's Home Fleet have been moved up in reserve—has failed to awaken the Pollyannas from their dream world. The Commander-in-Chief has told the nation we will accept our responsibilities come what may. If that isn't plain American language, what is?

In March of this year, this reporter wrote that the Near and Middle East was reaching the explosion point. If I knew, you can bet Allen Dulles knew and if Allen Dulles knew, so did the High Command. This writer remembers President Roosevelt, under similar attack, exhibiting a letter to him. It was from one of FDR's sons, who wrote from the battlefield that he hoped he'd fall in action—so they would stop criticizing his father. Well, Allen Dulles' son is only now recovering from his severe Korean wounds as a result of magnificent courage on the battlefield. What FDR's son offered, Allen Dulles' son paid. That alone should stop the cowardly attacks on the CIA Director. But if that isn't enough, at great risk to his own life, Allen Dulles caused the early surrender of the Nazi armies in Italy—thus saving tens of thousands of American lives.

In any event, it is too late for blame, even if there were any place to put it. The crisis is far beyond an examination of its cause. What we should worry about is its effect. The first lines of defense for this country are Central Intelligence and the United States Marines. Unless they are backed to our hilt, the enemy's hilt will be in our back. It is time the country awakened and armed—really armed. The choice is simple. For America—it's revolve or lapse.